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CONSTITUTION

AND

TEMPORARY LAWS

OF

THE POLEMIC SOCIETY.

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**HILLSBOROUGH:**

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# CONSTITUTION.



WE the undersigned, students of the Hillsborough Academy, do agree to form ourselves into an association, to be called the **POLEMIC SOCIETY**; the great purposes of which shall be, the promotion of useful knowledge, and the cultivation of eloquence and friendship. Aware of the importance of good order to the attainment of the great ends proposed, and indeed to the very existence of such a society, we agree to constitute the following officers, viz. a President, a Supervisor, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, each to be elected monthly.

## Section I.

Article 1. In the absence of the President, the Supervisor shall take the chair. In the absence of any other officer, the President shall appoint a pro tem.

Art. 2. Our meetings shall be weekly, on Saturday morning.

## Section II. THE PRESIDENT.

Art. 1. The President, at the hour appointed, shall take his seat, and call the house to order.

Art. 2. The President shall check any unlawful proceedings, and quell all irregularities.

Art. 3. The President shall fine or excuse, at his discretion, all persons returned by proper officers for the violation of any law; and the person so fined shall pay to the Treasurer the sum annexed to the law violated.

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Art. 4. The President shall, at every meeting, appoint two principals, each of whom shall choose two assistants, and espouse opposite sides of the question selected for discussion.

Art. 5. The President shall have power to call a meeting extraordinary, at which the members must attend.

Art. 6. The President shall, at the first meeting of every session, appoint two members to inspect the books belonging to the society, to make out a list of the same, and hand it to the Librarian.

Art. 7. The President shall, at the commencement of every term, appoint four members, who shall serve four weeks, and whose duty it shall be to present a question to the Secretary at each meeting, to be discussed at the next.

### **Section III. SUPERVISOR.**

Art. 1. The Supervisor shall sit on the right hand of the President.

Art. 2. The Supervisor shall strictly observe the conduct of the members during the meeting, and note down all irregularities, and make his return at the close of each meeting.

Art. 3. If any member shall be notoriously immoral in his conduct, irregular in his attendance on society, dissipated in his habits, or scandalously inattentive to his studies, the Supervisor shall draw up articles of impeachment, and give notice thereof to the house, which articles of impeachment shall be delivered to the Secretary; and he (the Secretary) shall transmit a copy of the same to the party impeached, within two days after the delivery to him of such articles. And he (the party impeached) shall attend at the next meeting to answer to the charge or charges preferred against him; at which meeting, immediately after the proceedings of the previous meet-

ing shall have been read, the Secretary shall read the articles of impeachment, and call upon the party impeached to answer thereto. After the investigation of the case, the house shall decide whether or not the impeachment shall be sustained, and if sustained, shall decide upon his punishment by ballot. If the party impeached be absent, the proceedings on his case shall be postponed to the next meeting, and further warning given him by the Secretary; at which time, if he wilfully absent himself, the house shall determine upon the impeachment and the penalty in his absence.

#### **Section IV. THE SECRETARY.**

Art. 1. The Secretary shall sit on the left hand of the President, and shall, at the commencement of every meeting, call the roll and read the proceedings of the previous meeting; and at the close of the meeting he shall return the absentees. He shall also call the roll immediately before the house is dismissed.

Art. 2. The Secretary shall note down all the fines, and hand the same to the Treasurer before the next meeting.

#### **Section V. THE TREASURER.**

Art. 1. The Treasurer shall collect all the fines and taxes; and keep a regular account of receipts and expenditures, which he shall read to the house at the expiration of his term.

#### **Section VI.**

Art. 1. When any addition to this constitution is proposed, or any alteration or amendment of any article thereof, it shall be done in the following manner, to wit: A resolution shall be drawn up specifying such addition, alteration or amendment, as is proposed; which resolution shall be handed to the Sec-

retary, and read by him to the house. The resolution shall then be laid over until the next meeting. (unless the President deem it necessary to be acted upon immediately,) at which time the house shall decide upon it, and the same; with a majority of two thirds of the members in its favor, shall go into effect.

Art. 2. No person shall be admitted either as a transient or regular member of this society without the consent of two thirds of the members.

Art. 3. No person, unless he be a teacher or student of this academy, shall be admitted as a member of this society.

Art. 4. No teacher or student who lives within the limits of the town, shall be admitted as an irregular member.



## TEMPORARY LAWS.

1. Every member, upon admission, shall pay one dollar and twenty-five cents.

2. All fines and taxes shall be paid in one month after they are incurred, and any member who refuses to pay, shall be reported to the house by the Treasurer at the end of his term, and dealt with according to the discretion of the house.

3. If any member refuse to serve when elected to an office, he shall be fined fifty cents; unless he shall have served in the same office the preceding term.

4. If the committee, or principals in debate, refuse to discharge their duty, they shall be fined fifty cents.

5. The officers cannot be returned or impeached before the expiration of their term of office. They may then be returned or impeached by the Supervisor, or any three members of the society.

6. Any three members may draw up and sign articles of impeachment, in failure of the Supervisor.

7. In the absence of a principal, the President shall appoint a member to supply his place.

8. Any member that does not speak in the order in which he is called, shall pay twenty-five cents.

9. Every member, upon rising to speak, shall respectfully address the President. Violation ten cents.

10. Any member who speaks more than twice, without permission from the President, shall be fined twenty cents.

11. If any member walk between the speaker and the President, he shall be fined ten cents.

12. In electing officers, the vote shall be taken by ballot; in all other cases, except where it is otherwise specified, by rising and sitting.

13. In all cases where votes are taken, the Secretary shall report.

14. The President shall vote only in case of a tie.

15. No question of an immoral nature shall be presented. Violation fifty cents.

16. If any person use indecent language, or cast a personal reflection, he shall be fined thirty cents.

17. If a member leave the room without the President's permission, he shall be fined twenty-five cents.

18. If any member laugh, or talk, or whisper during the meeting, he shall be fined ten cents.

19. If any person interrupt the speaker, he shall be fined twenty-five cents.

20. If any person sit in an indecent posture, or lie down, or eat, or sleep, or whittle with a knife during the meeting, he shall be fined twenty cents.

21. Nothing of a private or individual nature, or that would tend to the derogation of the society, or any member thereof, shall be divulged. The breach of this law shall be punished by fine, suspension, or expulsion, at the discretion of the house.

22. No member shall make a motion without rising to his feet, on penalty of fifteen cents.

23. Motions made in order, and seconded, shall be put to the house, unless withdrawn.

24. No single fine shall be less than ten cents, or greater than one dollar.

25. If any member change his seat without permission from the President, he shall be fined ten cents.

26. When two or more members wish to speak at the same time, the one who first addressed the President shall claim the floor. In case of contest, the President shall decide; and if, after the President has assigned the floor to one, any other should urge his claim, or continue to speak, he shall be fined twenty-five cents.

27. In no case where it is the President's legal

province to decide, shall any member object to his decision, upon a penalty of twenty-five cents.

28. When a member is admitted, the President shall appoint two persons to conduct him into the room; who shall lead him before the Supervisor, and he (the Supervisor) shall read the temporary laws of the society; after which he shall be conducted to his seat.

29. For any indecorous behaviour not specified in the laws, the Supervisor shall return a member, who shall be fined at the discretion of the President.

30. It shall be held illegal for more than three persons to be out at a time.

31. Any person who stays out longer than ten minutes, shall be fined one cent per minute for the whole time of his absence.

32. If any member, during a meeting of the society, shall break a pane of glass, or otherwise injure the building, the Treasurer shall have such damage repaired out of the treasury of the society, in the space of a fortnight after the doing of such damage, and the member doing such damage shall refund to the treasury.

33. Five members shall constitute a quorum, and transact business.

34. When any alteration of these laws is proposed, the process shall be the same as is adopted in regard to the constitution.

35. Each member may keep a copy of the constitution and laws until within a week of the end of each session, when he shall return them to the Librarian.

36. If any member absent himself from the society, without rendering an adequate excuse on his appearance, he shall be fined twenty-five cents.

37. At the expiration of every session, four members shall be elected to deliver an original address.



And one of each senior class shall be elected to deliver a valedictory address on their last meeting with the society.

38. At every meeting the President shall appoint two members to read composition, and two to declaim.

39. Every President shall, at the expiration of his term, deliver an address to the house. Violation fifty cents.

40. Any member retaining books borrowed from the society beyond the term of one month, shall pay the sum of twenty-five cents, and ten cents per week for the retention of such books beyond such time.

41. No person shall read during the meeting of the society, unless it be something on the subject under consideration.

42. Any member of the senior or junior class, or any others over fourteen years of age, may be admitted into the society.

43. Each member shall pay twenty-five cents at the commencement of every session.

44. No person except the Librarian shall open the library.

45. The Librarian shall keep a list of the books belonging to the library.

46. Every member shall be on terms of friendship and friendly intercourse and communion with every other member.

47. Any regular member of this society, who does not know the query for discussion, shall be fined twenty cents, unless he was absent at the previous meeting.

48. Irregular members shall be entitled to all privileges, except election to office.

49. An appeal may be had to the house from the decision of the President, if a motion to this effect is seconded.



THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE THE REGULAR ORDER OF PROCESS.

1. The President opens the meeting by taking his seat and calling the house to order.
2. The Secretary calls the roll, and reads the proceedings of the previous meeting.
3. Regular motions, admission of members, &c.
4. Composition and declamation.
5. Question discussed and votes taken.
6. Question for the next meeting read, and the principals appointed.
7. Two members appointed to read composition, and two to declaim, at the next meeting.
8. Officers elected; President, Supervisor, Secretary and Treasurer, monthly.
9. Query committee appointed, for four weeks.
10. Treasurer's and Librarian's returns, monthly.
11. The last President delivers his address.
12. The new officers take their seats.
13. A Librarian appointed.
14. Irregular motions.
15. Supervisor's returns.
16. Secretary's returns.
17. Roll called. House dismissed by the President.



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LIBRARY

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